particularly in regard to export trade of tea; and

(c) whether there has been any change in the business operational pattern of the T.T.C.I. as a result thereof; if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) to (c) Tea Trading Corporatiton of India was converted into a subsidiary of State Trading Corporation in January, 1986. This will enable STC to use its marketing strength, expertise and foreign offices to compete with large multinationals who dominate the tea trade. There will be close inter-linkage between the two companies with STC's nominees on the Board of Directors of TTCI. The operations of TTCI and STC are in the process of being rationalised to ensure greater coordination.

Alterate employment for the employees of Hindustan Samachar and Samachar Bharati

1144. SHRI SHEO KUMAR MISHRA:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 12 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st February, 1986 and state:

(a) what measures Government have taken for getting employment for journalists and other employees of Hindustan Samachar and Samachar Bharati; and

(b) what is the total number of employees of the two news agencies and how many of them have been absorbed in the new Press Trust of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) The Government has appealed to the managements of P.T.I. and U.N.I. to absorb in their language News Agencies the employees of Samachar Bharati and Hindudstan Samachar.

(b) Total Number of employees of Hindustan Samachar and Samachar Bharati is about 280. P.T.I. is reported to have absorbed 40 persons so far in their language News Agency.

Computerisation in Banks

1145. SHRI VALAMPURI JOHN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the introduction of computers and machines for clearing cheques in banks have not reduced the average time taken in their disposal; and

(b) whether in view thereof Government propose to slow down the process to computerisation of the banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have installed mini computers in clearing houses managed by itself at Bombay, Madras, New Delhi, Ahmedabad, Bangalore and Hyderabad. This has, to some extent reduced the time lag for clearance of local cheques at these centres. At bigger cities like Bombay, some banks like State Bank of India and Union Bank of India have introduced mini-computers for clearing inter-branch cheques which has facilitated quick clearance of payment instruments. With the implementation of MICR Technology in a phased manner for cheque processing and installation of High Speed sorters at major Metropolitan Centres in clearing of local as well as inter-city cheques at these centres would be further speeded up.

(b) Does not arise.

वस्त्र निर्यात से अर्जित विदेशी मुद्रा

1146. **श्री नत्था सिंह** : क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि 1980-81 से 1984-85 के वर्षों के दौरान वस्त्र निर्यात से कितनी विदेशी मुद्रा अर्जित की गई ?

वस्त्र मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री खुर्शीद आलम खान) : सूती वस्त्रों के जिनमें हथकरघा वस्त्र (यार्न, फेब्रिक्स, तैयार वस्त्र तथा अन्य